

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-7-4-40-5 August 17th

~~SECRET~~ - NOFORN

Nancy:

As you can see, this was originally a staff paper but General Haig did the Teller letter over and signed Kissinger's name. I dispatched. Cys, as you know, should go to HAK chron, Julie, Central files, etc.

Muriel

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**August 7, 1970**

**Dr. Edward Teller  
Lawrence Radiation Laboratory  
University of California  
P.O. Box 808  
Livermore, California 94550**

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**Dear Edward:**

**My apologies for not formally acknowledging earlier your letter of July 14 following your recent trip to the Middle East. As you know, this area is demanding an increasing amount of our time.**

**Al Haig has brought me up to date on his recent discussion with you and I am aware of your exchange of letters with the President. It was good seeing you at the recent White House dinner.**

**Warm regards,**

(Signed) Henry

**Henry A. Kissinger**

**HAK:AMH:mlh:8-7-70 (retype)**

MEMORANDUM

ACTION 593

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 23, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: Harold H. Saunders *7/24*

SUBJECT: Letter to You from Edward Teller

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Your friend Edward Teller recently wrote you a letter on the Mid-East. Since you might see him this evening at the dinner in honor of President Kekkonen of Finland (both he and Mrs. Teller are on the guest list), you may wish to have his correspondence in mind.

Dr. Teller recently spent two and one half weeks at the University of Tel Aviv. While in Israel, he noted "real personal anguish" on the part of the people because of the high casualty rate on the front, but also a "general desire for peace" and "little sign of any weakening of the spirit."

He, therefore, suggests three things which the U.S. might do in the present situation:

1. Abstain from diplomatic initiatives. (While the Israelis genuinely want peace, any "paternalistic" attitude on our part is clearly resented.)
2. Provide weapons to Israel but keep in close contact on the Israeli battle experience. (The Israelis want to be self-reliant.)
3. Donate a sum equivalent to the amount of our military aid to the Israelis for relief to the displaced Arab population in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. (The U.S. could require accounting and supervision of the funds for this purpose.)

Dr. Teller hopes to see you this evening. (Letter attached)

Attached is a brief acknowledgment from you which can be amended if you see Dr. Teller this evening.

Recommendation: That you sign -- or amend -- the attached letter at Tab A tomorrow.

LAWRENCE RADIATION LABORATORY  
P.O. BOX 808  
LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA 94550

July 14, 1970

Dr. Henry White  
No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-7-4-40-5  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Henry:

I just returned from a trip during which I spent two and one-half weeks at the University of Tel-Aviv. I would like to report my impressions and will try to make some suggestions.

As you probably know, the people in Israel are firm but worried. More than one-fourth of the GNP goes into the war and there is, of course, no end in sight. The rate of casualties on the front is high enough so as to cause real personal anguish to practically everyone. There is a general desire for peace but little sign of any weakening of the spirit.

I was most impressed by conversations with relatively recent immigrants from Hungary whom I knew from my childhood. They spent a few years in Israel. My uniform impression is that they have changed from a critical attitude toward one of understanding and eagerness to take all the consequences of the present great difficulties.

It seems to me that the situation calls for two obvious measures on our part, and also for one which I am putting forward with some hesitation.

First, I believe that in a diplomatic sense it is desirable for us to abstain from initiatives as far as possible. It is clear that the Israelis need peace and want it and it is also clear that we are willing to help if they attempt to move closer to a peaceful solution. On the other hand, an attitude on our part that can be interpreted as paternalistic is clearly resented, even though this resentment is never voiced.

Second, I think it is important that we supply them with weapons, particularly air planes, for which they are willing to pay the full price. The economic restraint to which they are thus subjected puts a natural limitation on them and it would seem unnecessary to establish any further limitations. It also seems entirely unnecessary to mention any aid in manpower. The Israelis are, and want to be, self-reliant. We should have, of course, full information of their battle experience. What we find out in this way about Russian planes and Russian anti-aircraft systems will be most valuable.

Dr. Henry Kissinger  
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In the third place, I should like to make a suggestion which you might find far-fetched and unrealistic and which I am making with some hesitation. The weapons purchases of Israel in the United States will amount to several hundred million dollars per year. I should like to suggest that the United States donate an equivalent amount of money to the relief of the displaced Arab population in the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank. The amount is large enough and the money would be spent by the Arabs themselves. At the same time, we could require supervision and accounting which will make it quite clear that the money is not being used for any other purpose than the one mentioned.

I am suggesting this last measure because I believe that the hard lot of the Arabs is one of the long-term reasons of the on-going conflict. Actually, these Arabs are now better off than they were before the Six-Day War, but the improvement is not great enough. If a rapid evolution could be initiated which would bring these people into the 20th century, a step will have been made toward the type of reform that could eventually defuse the Near East.

I realize that the step I am suggesting will be condemned by Nasser, by the Syrians and by the Russians. Their interest demands that discontent should persist. On the other hand, we may be able to persuade our remaining friends in the Arab world that the steps we are taking are in fact contributing to a long-term solution.

Hoping to see you on July 23,

With best regards,

  
Edward Teller

ET:fw

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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I was glad to have your thoughtful letter following your recent trip to the Mid-East. As you can imagine, we are devoting a great deal of time to the problems of the area and I appreciated the opportunity of having the benefit of your views in this regard.

Turning to the more frivolous, I trust that you had an enjoyable and relaxing journey. As always, it is good to hear of your expeditions.

Warmest regards,

Henry A. Kissinger

Dr. Edward Teller  
Lawrence Radiation Laboratory  
University of California  
P. O. Box 808  
Livermore, California 94550